



The QUARAE



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Editor John Lindvay WB3IFD

October 2019

It Seems to Me

I attended the Hamfest in Berea, Ohio, just south of Cleveland. I didn't see any other hams from Erie except the hams I came with. I thought there would be many more.

There are many things to do at a hamfest. I like to walk around and talk to people selling their wares. I talked to one guy who just retired and moved into an assisted living residence that did not allow any kind of electronic activity except AM/FM radio and cable TV and a cell phone, or other common consumer products. Ham radio activity is not allowed. Needless to say, he was selling his stuff at well below market values and I could tell he was not happy.

The hamfest also had an ARRL QSL card checker and forums on digital radio for things to do. I did not attend any of the forums because I spent most of my time watching Fred's Radios.

I finally got my vertical up thanks to Rick Cutter. It has been down all summer. I can't thank him enough. I have been very busy on FT8. It is great to get back on the radio.

Why do "overlook" and "oversee" mean opposite things?

Area 51 needs ham radio help

A social media joke early this summer setting up a "Storm Area 51, they Can't Stop Us All" group now has spiraled into emergency declarations in two Nevada counties and spurred an Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®)/Radio Amateur Civil

Emergency Service (RACES) deployment of personnel and equipment. Some predictions say the "Storm Area 51" event will draw thousands — many possibly ill-equipped to be out in the desert environment — to the Nevada Test and Training Range, which contains the US Air Force facility known as Area 51. ARES teams plan to staff and support six incident-specific locations along the 50-mile event corridor known as Extraterrestrial Highway, starting on September 19 and continuing until September 24. ARES/RACES personnel in Nevada began gearing up for Storm Area 51 on Monday, and Storm Area 51 visitors already have begun showing up.

Secrecy surrounding Area 51 has long fascinated and inspired conspiracy theorists, who believe alien life forms recovered by the US military following UFO sightings in the 1950s are still being kept there. The events this week prompted stern warnings from the military to stay away from the site, and the FAA is reported to have closed the airspace above the area.

In June, 20-year-old Facebook user Matty Roberts called for crowds of people to rush Area 51 in the Nevada desert, to "see them aliens" that some believe are being held as prisoners there. Within days, more than 2 million indicated they were taking up Roberts' rallying cry, and another 1.5 million expressed interest in doing so. At that point, Roberts declared that his initial post was just a joke. Multiple Facebook sites have opened since, promoting a huge music festival dubbed "Alienstock" in Rachel, a town of about 50 residents, and an Area 51 Basecamp in Hiko. Other UFO-inspired events are popping up along desolate Nevada Highway 375, Extraterrestrial Highway,

effectively creating a venue more than 50 miles long, as no other roads exist into or out of Rachel. Reports say that hundreds of law enforcement officers and medical personnel will be posted, along with the Nevada National Guard.

Preliminary estimates of attendance have run as high as 100,000, and as low as 15,000. With virtually no local infrastructure and faced with the possibility of being overrun by visitors, officials in Lincoln and Nye counties declared states of emergency. When the events were first announced in late August, Lincoln County Sheriff Kerry Lee, assisted by the Nevada Department of Emergency Management/Homeland Security (NDEM), found little time to prepare. Surrounding counties and agencies are pitching in with equipment and 350 personnel.

Lincoln County, where Rachel sits, has just 5,000 inhabitants, and virtually all of the land is owned by the federal government. The county has just 20 law enforcement officers.

Emergency medical and fire protection services are nonexistent in Rachel. Volunteers staff a single ambulance, a fire truck, and a rescue vehicle. The nearest small hospital is 85 miles away, and the closest major hospital or trauma care is 150 miles away in Las Vegas. Telecommunication and other services are sparse to nonexistent along the highway, and Rachel has just one business — a small bar/café/motel combination. Its proprietor told the Associated Press, “It’s happening. We already have people from all over the world.”

Given the spotty telecommunications, Amateur Radio could play an essential role in the event. Lincoln County’s 30 radio amateurs are either unable to deploy due to age or they’re already deployed in some other emergency response role, so Lincoln County ARES Emergency Coordinator Charles Reifsnnyder, AD7OY, has recruited ARES personnel from throughout the state to support operations. Back-up resources outside the area will remain on alert. — *Thanks to John Bigley, N7UR*

Pennsylvania QSO Party

The PAQSO Party is always the 2nd full weekend in October. This year it is October 12 & 13. It is a great time when a multitude of PA stations get on the air and give out rare counties in Pennsylvania. We always have a good turn-out at the W3GV clubhouse with lots of food and visitors that stop by. This year’s bonus station is K3SMT. The website states, “*The Party originated in 1957 - not by the Nittany Amateur Radio Club, but rather under the auspices of the Harrisburg Radio Amateur Club, and in 1966, the Nittany Amateur Radio Club took over administration of the Party for the next 52 years. When NARC decided that it could no longer adequately manage the Party, a new organization dedicated to administering the Party was formed by small group of Party enthusiasts and the PA QSO Party Administration (PA QSO PA) took the reins in 2018 for the 62nd PA QSO Party.*” Hope to see you all at the club house.

I got a job at a bakery because I kneaded dough.

Christmas Party

All hams and their family are invited.

\$16 per person includes gratuity

TICKET DEADLINE 12/6/2019

Location: Senior Citizen, Center Summit Township, 1450 Townhall Rd. W., Erie, PA 16509

When: Saturday, December 14, 2019, Time 4 PM until 8 PM.

Dinner 5 PM

Menu:

Baked Chicken, Glazed Ham, Meat Balls, Rigatoni.
Parsley Potato's w/Garlic Butter
Green Beans w/Bacon,
Glazed Carrots, House Salad
Coffee, Rolls, Butter, Lemon Aid

Desert: Cake.

For reservations contact Sue Seyboldt at (814) 969-8542.

Once reservations are made you are obligated to pay even if you don't attend.

Mail Check Payment To:

Wattsburg Wireless Association
C/O Allen Platz
8091 New Road
Cranesville, PA 16410

Ham Radio Calendar

October 1 – Corry Club Meeting

October 3 – RAE Club Meeting

October 4 – Anniversary of launching of Sputnik I the first artificial satellite in 1957, an event that stimulated wide spread concern for scientific education

October 5 - California QSO Party. See www.cqp.org

October 8 – Wattsburg Wireless Club Meeting

October 10 – Union City Wireless Club Meeting

October 12 - Nevada QSO Party. See nvqso.com

October 12 - Pennsylvania QSO Party. See paqso.org

October 12 - Arizona QSO Party. See www.azqsoparty.org

October 12 - South Dakota QSO Party. See www.sdqso.org

October 14 – Columbus Day

October 18 - Zombie Shuffle (CW). See www.zianet.com/grp

October 19 - SUNY Fredonia Mini Maker Faire. See wb2elw.net

October 19 - New York QSO Party. See www.nyqp.org

October 19 - Worked All Germany Contest. See www.darc.de/der-club/referate/conteste/worked-all-germany-contest/en/rules

October 19 – VE Session

October 20 - Illinois QSO Party. See www.w9awe.org/ILQP.html

October 21 - All ARRL School Club Roundup. See www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup

October 31 – Halloween